

REMARKS

No claims have been amended, canceled or added herein; therefore, claims 1-8 are pending in the Application. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested for the reasons that follow.

Claim Rejections - Under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Finnemore et al. in combination with Thieme et al. Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's reasoning for the outstanding rejection based on the two references, Applicants submit declarations under 35 C.F.R. §1.131 concurrently herewith. It is submitted that the two declarations of the inventors and Ms. Kwon establish an invention date prior to March 9, 2001. On the other hand, the earliest possible 102(e) reference date of the Thieme reference is March 9, 2001. Therefore, it is submitted that the two declarations filed concurrently herewith remove the Thieme reference from prior art by establishing an invention date earlier than the 102(e) reference date of the Thieme reference, and the outstanding rejection has been overcome.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested. The Director is authorized to charge any fees or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

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